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HOSPITALS AT CANTON AND MACAO.

BY C. T. LEE, ESQ.

THE Ophthalmic Hospital at Canton was opened by Dr. Parker, from the United States, in 1835, through the advice and encouragement of Dr. Colledge, who had himself set the example by commencing a similar undertaking at Macao, about seven years before that period. The hospital at Canton consists of a large hall upon the ground floor, a corresponding room with two or three apartments upon the first floor, and a second floor divided into wards for the patients. The building was not intended for the purpose, and is, therefore, not so happy in its contrivance as could be wished; but from the opening, 1835 to 1839, 6300 patients had been entered, all of them affected with some very serious disorder, and all, with here and there an exception, returning to their homes in perfect health. The success which has almost uniformly attended every case, would be regarded in the light of a miracle, did we not call to mind two or three natural causes, which have abetted professional skill in a remarkable manner. In the first place, the constitution of a Chinese yields easily to the impression of medicine, so that every dose of physic exerts some decided effect; in the second place, the system of a Chinese is so happily tempered, that inflammation seldom rises to a higher degree than is necessary to set up the healing process; if there be blood enough left to keep the machine at work, the surgeon may divest himself of all anxious feelings, for the patient will certainly do well; in the third place, the mind of a native is well stocked with patience, and imbued with the very spirit of acquiescence, hence the restorative functions are seldom impeded by fretful or laborious thinking. He is a patient in the classic sense of the term, "*patiens pulveris atque solis*," that is capable of enduring.

On Mondays a crowd of persons throng the lower hall, and generally manifest so much eagerness to hear the doctor's judgment on their case that it is necessary to keep them at a proper distance by a rail. In the centre of an extemporaneous enclosure the physician takes his seat, while two or three of his native assistants admit the candidates one by one for examination. If their case be hopeful, they are allowed to pass up a flight of stairs to the hall above. Not a few eyeless wretches present themselves, and many others, whose maladies are equally beyond the reach of cure; for report wasted along amidst the glitter of Chinese hyperbole has encouraged them to think that there was no

limit to the skill of the wonder-working stranger. As the rejection of these poor creatures dissipates the fond dream of hope, and consigns them to bleak despair, a native, with a kindness of manner and a compassionate tone of voice, is selected to communicate this sad intelligence to them. But notes of sympathy cannot allay the keenness of disappointment; and they generally retire as lost and bewildered, as the man who leaves the bar of justice for the condemned cell.

The hall on the second floor exhibits a different picture; instead of stir, conflict and confusion, those who were fortunate enough to gain admittance range themselves upon the seats that run round the room, and quietly wait till the physician has time to prescribe for their case. The anxiety manifested below stairs was to hear the doctor's decision; and such is the unbounded confidence reposed in him, that as soon as the patients find it to be favorable they recover their wonted composure, and wait for the treatment without any uneasy conjectures as to the smart it might cost them. In number the females nearly equal the males, and far surpass them in sense and magnanimity. The extirpation of a cancerous breast, a frequent operation, is submitted to sometimes without a sigh or a groan, always with a fortitude that does the highest honor to womanhood in China. The prejudices of the Chinese disappear before the light of medical philanthropy: fondness for national systems, dread of blood, aversion to foreigners, are all absorbed in the hope of cure, and the native man and native woman sit down at the feet of the stranger to be dealt with in any way he may think fit.

The hospital at Macao is situated near the inner harbor, and, from an island called the Lassa, it forms the principal object in the foreground of a very pretty picture. It has 19 rooms upon the ground floor, and as many upon the second story. It is built of brick, of strong and durable workmanship. The ground plot is about a third of an acre in extent, and is surrounded by a substantial wall of the same material; a garden with three wells of water in the rear, and a grassy enclosure in front. This was opened by Dr. Parker in 1838, and subsequently conducted by Dr. Hobson and another English gentleman, till the imperial edict commanded the withdrawal of British subjects. It is owned by the Medical Missionary Society, which was organized in 1838, with the view of clearing all the expenses that might be incurred in the support of this and the other at Canton. The salaries of the medical officers were not then in contemplation, as it was expected that the religious boards would provide for their representatives. A society has been lately formed in London, under the name of the *Medical Philanthropic Society*, which, when the Chinese authorities shall be brought to terms, purposes to send well-qualified persons to practise in these hospitals, or to establish others in eligible situations. The advantages which result from such enterprises may be summed up under the following heads:—

1. They give us an opportunity of studying the native character, and of becoming intimately acquainted with the habits and customs of the people.

2. They exhibit the men from Old and New England under their most favorable aspect, as scientific and benevolent, and thus put us in

the best attitude for promoting the moral and intellectual advancement of the natives.

3. The hospitals afford capital means for training the natives in medicine and surgery. Dr. Parker has two regular pupils, and is waited upon by two or three others, who are ambitious to be thought his disciples among their own countrymen.

4. As the foreign practitioner is often called in during a course of native treatment, Chinese remedies are brought under his notice, and he has an opportunity of witnessing the cases in which they are administered, as well as their nature and efficacy. The Chinese materia medica is very extensive, and their apothecaries' shops in arrangement, neatness, and the accuracy with which prescriptions are dispensed, form no inadequate counterparts of our own.

5. A knowledge of diseases peculiar to the country is gained. Native works are voluminous, and exhibit many disorders, which either radically or in some important feature differ from diseases in the West. The geographical distribution of the maladies incident to man, under differing climes and upon various soils, is a subject that merits research, since it will suggest many hints as to the exciting causes of disease, lead to new experiments in the mode of treatment, and tend perhaps more than anything else to give the stamp of philosophic precision to our systems of nosology.

THE HEALTH AND LONGEVITY OF THE ANCIENTS AND MODERNS.

BY F. H. ALLEN, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

It has often appeared to me that an inquiry into the causes of the ancients being more healthy and longer lived than the moderns, was not only capable of affording us considerable pleasure and information, but must also prove of considerable utility. If the ancients did actually live longer than we do—if they were better formed, more beautifully and regularly organized—if they enjoyed better health, had firmer constitutions, and passed their lives more agreeably, then it is of vast importance to try to ascertain what gave them this advantage over us.

It may be said by some, that we have no desire to go back into the dust and the damps of antiquity to learn the laws of the human economy. Granted: we have no intention of going back to the ancient sages to teach us the laws of nature—atomy, physiology, pathology, or any of the sciences. Our school-boys are now wiser, in many things, than were the Platoes and Aristotles of old. But if, with all their ignorance, their darkness, and their superstition, they lived longer and more healthy lives than we do, we ought to be willing to inquire of them the cause of this—to be taught by them, and to follow their examples. Man consents to learn many things of the beasts that perish. It has been the pleasure of the Almighty that man should

"Learn from the birds what food the thickets yield,
Learn from the beasts the physic of the field,
The arts of building from the bee receive,
Learn of the mole to plough, the worm to weave."

Why not, then, go back to the ancients, and although they are our inferiors in point of knowledge, learn of them what gave them their physical superiority over men of the present day? This would be acquiring our knowledge of human life, from examples—and it would do us more good than all the vain, empty theories, the philosophies of living, and the sciences of human life, which of late years have been so profusely scattered amongst us.

We cannot, for a moment, question the fact, that the ancients were longer lived than the moderns. Not only does sacred history declare this, but profane history corroborates it. Neither can we doubt the other fact, that men were anciently possessed of a greater degree of corporeal vigor, than they are at this day. This is an impression which we gather from the perusal of all history, and which is probably correct. Gibbon, whose acquaintance with the manners and customs, and with the constitution of both mind and body, of the ancients, perhaps surpassed that of any other man, tells us that they were superior to the moderns in strength of body and of mind—that they were able to bear more fatigue, to undergo more hardships, to suffer greater exposures, and to overcome greater difficulties, than are the men of the present time. He tells us, in his smooth, vigorous language, that even the weight of the arms alone which the Roman soldiers carried, "would oppress the delicacy of the modern soldier."

Let us then inquire what gave the ancients their superiority over us in their mental and corporeal powers. We shall find, in making this inquiry, that one of the first causes which produces a difference in the health and longevity of the ancients and of the moderns, is the difference in the manner of their education. The system of education which was pursued by many of the nations of antiquity, was far better calculated to develop both the powers of the mind and the body, than the system which is adopted in modern times. Although the ancients were unacquainted with the sciences of anatomy and physiology, yet they, in educating their children, did not so often violate the laws of the animal economy as we do at the present day of knowledge and refinement. They trained up their offspring in such a manner that their minds and their bodies might be developed simultaneously. They never attempted to cultivate the mind independently of physical cultivation—to manage the mind as though it were an entity, a being, an existence separate and independent of physical organization. This is too often attempted in modern times. Go into many of our public schools, and you will see the tender mind urged forward by every stimulus which ingenuity can devise, and made to acquire that learning which should be left for a more mature age to comprehend. In this manner children become precocious—their minds and their bodies become sadly unbalanced—they are pressed forward like plants in a hot-house—they are compelled to acquire the knowledge which can do them but little good, and while they are more forward than children that have not been thus stimulated, the real strength of their minds is perhaps less.

And what is the consequence of this crowding of the young mind,

of this pretended cultivation of the mental powers, while the corporeal are almost wholly disregarded? Can it be expected that children will have any greater minds from our attempting to teach them Plato before they have emerged from the cradle—to instil into them the science of political economy before they have left the arms of their nurses—and to teach them Euclid, when they should be at play with their dolls? The youthful mind cannot be thus pressed forward. By trying to crowd too much into it, we leave it no room to comprehend anything thoroughly; or else, the mind becomes too great for the body, and the body sinks beneath its weight. This urging of the mind, with a total disregard of the body, is one of the greatest errors in the system of modern education; and until it is corrected—until the body and the mind are cultivated simultaneously—the moderns will continue to be inferior to the ancients in the strength and the vigor of their intellectual powers.

Perhaps we shall see this subject set forth in a clearer light, if we compare the modern mode of education, in some of its leading features, with that of the ancients. Let us, for instance, take the Spartan mode, and compare it with ours, and we shall immediately perceive how much better calculated it was to develop the energies, both of the body and the mind, than ours is. First, we shall find that in childhood the Spartan youth was allowed the free and unrestrained exercise of his limbs. He was not prohibited the free use of the vital air, lest the sun or the wind might somewhat embrown his beautiful cheeks. He was not restrained from engaging in any of the sports of childhood which would have a tendency to develop his corporeal organs, and render his health firm and vigorous. Neither was he packed, at the age of four, into an ugly, villainous, ill-contrived school-house, and there cramped up among the crowd, with his little limbs contorted into all imaginable shapes, and compelled to sit for six or eight hours a day, breathing the impure, vitiated air; and all this for his own especial edification, for the gratification of fond parents, who blindly imagine they are making prodigies of their children, and for the unspeakable pleasure of the teacher, who delights to get a high pressure on the tender mind. He was not, during his infancy, stuffed with sweetmeats and fed upon delicacies, which would tend to disorder his health, render him unnaturally precocious, and enervate both body and mind. Neither was he forced to wear twice as many clothes as were necessary; nor did he, in the summer, perspire his strength away by sleeping on a bed of down, nor become debilitated in the winter by sleeping in heated rooms. When he grew older, he was entirely separated from his parents and parental authority, and put under the care and guardianship of the State. Here he was taught the manly exercises, and his mind and body were cultivated simultaneously. And here, too, he was taught those virtues which are so essentially necessary to the people of a free government. Here temperance, honor, honesty and fortitude were taught him. The cultivation of the mind was not thought to be more important than the cultivation of the body, but they were both looked upon as equally worthy of cultivation, and both equally cultivated. In this manner, men were produced whose health was unbroken by physical infirmities, whose bodily powers were

astonishingly great, and whose minds, if they were inferior in vigor to their bodies, were as great and as powerful, at least, as are the minds of men at the present day.

Now reverse the picture, and we shall have a precise view of the modern mode of education. Whilst the Spartan child was engaged in those sports which would give him energy and corporeal vigor, the modern child is confined and forbidden that exercise which is necessary to give him health of body and mind. Whilst the Spartan youth directed his attention to the manly and robust exercises, the modern youth too often grows up in luxury, and of course is effeminate. The whole life of the ancients and of the moderns is a perfect contrast to each other, as regards their manner of life and mode of education; and the result of this difference is evident to the most casual observer.

The great defect in the modern mode of teaching, is the attempt to crowd too much into the mind, which is frequently treated as if it were capable of expanding itself at once and indefinitely. But this is a sad mistake. If the mind is too much crowded, instead of being rendered stronger and furnished with more knowledge, it is in effect rendered weaker, and what knowledge is thus forced into it, lies there in confusion, and is seldom of much use to the possessor. The mind is that part of man which must gradually expand and unfold itself beneath the power of education, as the tender bud expands and unfolds itself into a beautiful flower beneath the gentle influence of the summer sun.

Let us here just inquire what is education, and what are its chief objects? It is not, surely, the cultivation of the mind or the body independent of each other. It is not the adding strength to the mind at the expense of the body. This cannot be done; or, at least, it cannot be done with impunity. Education, in the broadest sense of the word, consists in that training of the mind and body which shall fit a person to discharge all the duties of life, and which shall especially prepare him to fill that station in which chance or intention may have placed him. It is not that man who has acquired the most knowledge, who is the best educated. This is often far from being the case. A man may have acquired many of the thoughts of other men, and yet he may not, himself, be able to think either correctly or profoundly. "Education," says Beattie, "should be to teach us rather how to think than what to think—rather to improve our minds so as to enable us to think for ourselves, than to load the memory with the thoughts of other men." It is in this that the ancient mode of education is superior to the modern. The ancients, when they had finished their education, had not acquired so much knowledge as the moderns acquire when they have finished theirs; but their minds and their bodies were both cultivated, and they went into the world far better fitted to meet the many difficulties of life, and to perform its various offices.

Let it not be understood that I am a blind admirer of the ancients—of their institutions, their forms of government, religion, &c. I am not. I would merely say, that if we were more nearly to follow out the ancient system in educating our youth, we should see men of firmer bodies and of more vigorous health, men longer lived, and, with due

deference to all who may be of a different opinion, men of greater and more powerful minds than those which we behold at the present day.

A difference, also, in the occupations of the ancients and the moderns, tends to produce a difference in their health, constitutions and longevity. The occupations which a great portion of the ancients followed were better calculated to develop the corporeal powers than are those followed by a great majority of the moderns. I will not say that their employments were better fitted to develop the moral powers of man, than our employments are; but I think they had as salutary an effect even on these higher powers of man. The occupations which mostly engaged their attention were those of war and husbandry; and their husbandry consisted of a rude kind, such as the tending of flocks, &c., which did not require a great deal of personal labor. That vast class of merchants, manufacturers and literary men, who in modern times are continually transgressing the laws of the animal economy, did not exist in ancient times. War, it may be said, is, in every sense of the word, unfriendly to man. This is indeed true; war, upon the whole, is a curse and a scourge to the human family. It has retarded the progress of morality more, perhaps, than any one thing else. Yet I think that it may be demonstrated, that all that vast class of men who in ancient times followed the trade of war, not only possessed a firmer physical constitution than do a great portion of mankind at the present day, but also possessed more exalted moral powers, although their trade was war, and their occupation was the art of killing.

But some one, perhaps, will say that this is exalting the ancients too high, and bringing the moderns down too low. This we believe not to be the case. Let any one read history, and at the same time make observations on the race of beings of the present time, and he will be convinced that there is as great a balance in favor of the ancients, both as regards their moral and their physical nature, as has here been represented. And we wish it to be understood as our firm opinion, that the human race has degenerated, and that difference of occupations is one great cause of the difference in the moral and physical powers of the ancients and moderns.

Let me not be understood to rail at refinement and civilization. Far from it. The moderns, in many of the arts and sciences, have gone far beyond the ancients. They have made discoveries and sought out inventions, of which the ancients had not the remotest idea. The powers of the magnet have been discovered, and found capable of guiding man to all parts of the world; the telescope has revealed to him the wonders of the starry heavens; chemistry and astronomy have taught him wonders; the art of printing has given him the power of communicating his thoughts to all the earth; steam has conferred the ability to move from place to place with the velocity of the wind; and ten thousand other inventions have been made, of which the inhabitants of the ancient world had no conception. But has this march of improvement in knowledge been the means of rendering men stronger, or more vigorous in mind or body? Has this march of mind, as modern philosophers call it, been the means of rendering men longer lived? The

answer is conclusive, in my mind, that it has not ; but that it has had an effect entirely the contrary, viz., to render the whole human family more unhealthy and shorter lived than they formerly were. Not that civilization and refinement are incapable of improving the moral and the physical condition of man. If men, as they advance in refinement, were to cultivate equally all the powers of body and mind, the human race would not degenerate. But this has not been the case ; the farther men advance in refinement, the farther they carry the arts and sciences ; and if they are not guided and directed, and even compelled, to cultivate all the faculties alike, they will assuredly bring one faculty to a high state of cultivation, whilst some other lies entirely dormant. We may illustrate the above remark by directing the attention to the man that devotes his whole time to literary pursuits, and to the one that is confined as an operative in some of our manufactories. The one gets his livelihood by the exclusive exercise of his mind, the other by the exclusive exercise of his body. They both, therefore, outrage the laws of nature ; they injure their health, make inroads upon their constitution, and transmit to their offspring their own degenerated natures, and thus assist in producing a degeneracy of the human race.

There is another circumstance which tends to produce a difference in the constitution and longevity of the ancients and moderns, and that is a difference in their diet and manner of living. It cannot be denied that a difference in diet will produce a corresponding difference in the health and constitution of different people. This is acknowledged by all who have paid attention to the effects which a peculiarity of diet is capable of producing. We well know that a too strict adherence to salted provisions fills the system with humors, or, in other words, produces cutaneous diseases and scurvy ; that a confinement to vegetable diet produces emaciation and debility ; and that the use of too nutritious and luxurious food, will bring on almost all the diseases to which flesh is heir.

No one will pretend to say that the food of the ancients was not better calculated to fulfil all the purposes for which it is intended, than the food of the moderns. The ancients gratified the appetite with the natural food of man—food unmangled by the ten thousand operations of modern cookery, and which was calculated to satisfy the natural and unsophisticated appetite. They partook of the nutritious flesh of both wild and domestic animals ; but that flesh was not tortured up into a thousand dishes, for the express purpose of pleasing the appetite and stimulating the natural desire for food. They also ate the fruits of the field ; but those fruits were not then spoiled, as they now too often are, by the art of refined cookery. They likewise drank the pure element ; or if they partook of any cordial, they took that which was pure and unadulterated, such as the pure juice of the grape, and not such vile compounds as the modern hucksters sell under the name of wine.

It is not so now ; gastronomy has been carried to a high pitch of perfection ; and in exact proportion as this science has been cultivated, the powers of the stomach have been forced to suffer. The art of

cookery, at the present day, does not consist in learning how to compound and cook food so that it may be the most easily digested, and the best fitted to sustain the functions of life, but rather that it may be the most tempting to the appetite. I would by no means recommend so great a simplicity of diet as has been urged by some of our wise modern philosophers. I would not confine the human race to the use of mashed potatoes, stewed apples and bran bread, even with the addition of a little butter. No, we should not think this the natural diet of man. In fact, this kind of diet is the farthest possible from natural diet, the whole posse of the moral reformers and would-be philosophers to the contrary notwithstanding. Human nature needs something more substantial than this. Let it have, for instance, a plenty of bread and beef; and a little wine, if properly taken, can do it no manner of harm. Give it good, wholesome, nutritious food, but let that food be properly cooked. We would not take it raw from the hand of nature, without any cookery to fit it for use; this would be as much as to say that we are unable to prepare the rough product and fit it for our wants. Neither would we have it spoiled by the art of cookery; this would be showing that we think too much of what we shall eat and what we shall drink. But we would have it prepared in such a manner that it retain all its natural nutritious qualities, and at the same time be palatable and wholesome. We cannot imagine that man can be reformed solely by attention to dietetic rules, as some have imagined; yet we are fully convinced, that if men would return more nearly to their pristine state of living, as regards their food, it would have a tendency to make them longer lived, and to elevate them in the scale of moral and intellectual beings.

The foregoing are some of the most prominent circumstances which have tended to render the moderns inferior to the ancients as regards their morals, their intellect, their corporeal powers, and the length of their lives. To pursue the subject farther, and to enter more minutely into particulars, would not only, perhaps, require a more profound knowledge of history and a deeper philosophy than we possess, but would, probably, be both wearying and unprofitable to the reader. Begging pardon, therefore, for having already so long trespassed upon the pages of the *Journal*, we will draw our remarks to a close.

Buxton, Me., August, 1840.

HERMAPHRODITISM.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THE following curious case of imposture came under my observation in the month of March, 1840.

An individual was received into the Erie County Almshouse, who was represented as being an hermaphrodite. I was requested to examine him, the superintendent being at a loss whether to place him in the male or female department of the institution. His external appearance was as follows. Hair, black and long, arranged after the feminine mode.

Face, having a masculine coarseness, but with a fair, feminine complexion. Some beard on the chin and upper lip, which had evidently never been shaven. Ear-rings in the ears. Hands, delicate but large. Feet, large and masculine. He was dressed in pantaloons and a frock coat. His voice and manner of walking resembled those of a female. The former in tone was not peculiarly feminine, but the air and manner of speaking strikingly so. The gait, in walking, was so peculiar, that no one could avoid the suspicion that the individual was a woman in male attire. I was informed that he had been carried before a magistrate, on the charge of being a female disguised in men's clothing, and by him sent, in the first place, to the jail, and from thence to the Almshouse. He had previously been known about some portions of the city as an hermaphrodite; and I was told that stories were current of his performing the copulative functions of either sex.

When requested to exhibit the sexual organs, he seemed to manifest much bashfulness, and said that he was reluctant to do so *then*, as he was menstruating. Entreaty, bribery and threats were successively employed, but without effect in procuring a voluntary examination. The superintendent not feeling authorized to compel an exhibition, he was, with his consent, examined by an old woman, an inmate of the house. She reported that he was endowed with perfectly formed male and female organs. This not being satisfactory, and stimulating curiosity, frequent attempts, at subsequent periods, were made to procure an examination, but unsuccessfully. In the meantime, the old woman who had enjoyed the privilege of inspection having stated it to be her opinion that the female organs predominated, he was established in one of the female wards. He replied to all questions readily; said he had no inclination for either sex; and represented himself, in short, as a female, with, to use his own language, "a piece of dead flesh hanging down." He stated that he had been brought up as a girl, had lived in service as a kitchen maid in this city; and, formerly, had performed as a female in a circus. At the Almshouse he was employed in female duties, such as washing, &c., with which he was evidently perfectly *au fait*. After a few weeks he was seized with pneumonia, which terminated fatally.

Having much curiosity to make the examination after death, which had been sought unsuccessfully during life, I proceeded, accompanied by a medical friend, to the Almshouse for this purpose, immediately upon receiving intelligence of his demise. The result may be described in a few words. We found male organs entire and well developed, and no semblance whatever of those of the female. Dr. N., who accompanied me, recognized him as an individual who had applied to him for a certificate that he possessed male organs. His object in soliciting the certificate, he stated, was to avoid prosecution for being a female disguised in male attire. His case, previously to his being brought before a magistrate, had excited much interest among some benevolent ladies. He had stated to them that he had of late dressed like a male, to avoid the importunities of the sex! His story was credited, and much sympathy and pecuniary aid were bestowed upon him. The imposture must, manifestly, have been commenced at an early age. The motives

which led to its adoption by himself or others, and induced its continuance, I leave for conjecture. His age was apparently about 25.

Buffalo, N. Y., Sept., 1840.

A. F.

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, OCTOBER 7, 1840.

LECTURES ON THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF PHYSIC.

It was remarked by a medical gentleman, the other day, that there were so many systems of practice extant, that he had no confidence in any of them. A sentiment like this could only have emanated from a superficial student, who never felt the responsibilities of professional life to be very troublesome. The only mode of keeping pace with the advances of the age, is to study all publications which have their origin in a respectable source; and in the practice of medicine, especially, a neglect to profit by the accumulating experience of others, shows an unfitness in the man for the station which society permits him to occupy.

Dr. Stokes's reputation stands very high in Europe; but that circumstance has no very direct influence on the minds of American physicians, since they have sagacity to discover merit, and the wisdom to avail themselves of the attainments of others, without regard to country. Messrs. Haswell, Barrington & Haswell, of Philadelphia, have recently published a second edition of Dr. Stokes's Lectures, enriched and very essentially enhanced in value by the addition of twelve lectures, together with numerous notes, by John Bell, M.D., of that city. The whole now makes a large volume of almost 700 pages, octavo. Considerable, if not all of the original work, has been read in the journals; but Dr. Bell's contributions are quite new, and therefore cannot fail of exciting considerable interest. We enjoin it upon the students of medical schools to be provided with this book at once, as a necessary appendage in attending lectures on theory and practice.

Preservation of the Teeth.—Books are written upon all supposable subjects in these times of literary energy, and what surprises us most, is the fact that so many of them are instructive. A neatly-printed miniature volume on the preservation of the teeth, by David K. Hitchcock, has been already alluded to in the Journal. At first view, it seemed hardly possible that the author of this little work could do anything more than reiterate the ten-times told stories of half a dozen authors. But the more closely this is read, the better it will be liked. The topics discussed are really worth attending to, and, to a certain extent, are individually important to every person.

There are 14 chapters. Chap. i. treats of the teeth as influencing the character of facial expression, health, &c. Chap. iii. is devoted to the consideration of *irregularity in dentition*, with engraved illustrations. Chap. iv. considers the whole matter of *filling teeth*, and becomes right smart about the lithodeon, which is now considerably used in this place. Chap. v. plays off a whole park of artillery upon *popular dentifrices*.

The writer assures us that cold water is far better than all the compounds in christendom for cleaning teeth, in which we sincerely believe he is in the right. Chap. vi. is exclusively an *expost* of the dangers and ill effects of having the enamel injured by scraping instruments, on the plea of cleaning the teeth. Chap. vii. is sensibly written—being on the evils of tartar. Chap. viii. is full of fire and independence, which will necessarily bring about an open war between the author and all consumers of tobacco. The title of the chapter is this—*Influence of tobacco on the teeth*. Chap. ix. touches his own kith and professional kin—the dentists. Mr. Hitchcock insists upon it that the successful practice of dentistry depends essentially on mechanical skill. Chap. x. embraces eight or more pages on the *extraction of teeth*. Chap. xi.—*Artificial teeth*. Chap. xii.—*Mechanism of artificial teeth*. Chap. xiii.—*Toothache*, ten pages, with a score of remarks on all conditions of aching teeth. Chap. xiv.—*Infantile dentition*, contains so many excellent hints that it has interested us as much as any chapter in the book. Chap. xv. is the last, and wholly on the *Anatomy and Physiology of the teeth*, with such occasional reflections as are naturally called into being by habitually contemplating the exhibitions of Divine goodness manifested in the organization of our bodies.

An imperfect idea only can be formed of the merits of this little work, either in a literary or scientific point of view, by the above notice. The city papers, without a dissenting voice, speak in the most favorable manner of the author's effort.

Elements of Zoology.—J. F. W. Lane, M.D., of Boston, a gentleman admirably qualified for the undertaking, is translating from the French the *Elements of Zoology, or Lessons in the Anatomy, Physiology, Classification and Habits of Animals*, by H. Milne Edwards, which cannot fail of being an acceptable work to the students of natural history in the United States. Some expectations are entertained of embellishing the translation with a series of engravings, like the original. Care will be taken that the edition shall meet the approbation of those who place a value on the external appearance as well as on the character of a new book.

Preservative Powers of the Vaccine Virus.—The question of the preservative efficacy of the vaccine virus against smallpox, has been frequently discussed of late, and much difference of opinion expressed by various medical authorities. In the last number (June 13, 1840), of the French "*Medical Gazette*," now before us, we find some remarks on an epidemic of smallpox, which prevailed for nine months in one of the French provincial towns; these refer principally to the protective influence of vaccination, and are based, as the writer assures us, on considerable experience. His conclusions are the following:

1. The epidemic prevailed amongst the vaccinated and non-vaccinated, but was most fatal amongst the latter class.

2. Amongst the non-vaccinated numerous cases of confluent smallpox occurred; but their fatal termination depended rather on the supervention of catarrhal symptoms than on accidents connected with the smallpox itself.

3. The number of vaccinated persons attacked by variola was very great, chiefly from the age of eight or nine years, up to that of thirty.

But the more removed were the patients from the period of vaccination, the more severe and dangerous was the attack of smallpox.

4. Again, the lesser the period since vaccination, the more mild was the disease, and the more rapidly did it terminate, never extending beyond nine to eleven days.

From these and several other facts of a similar nature, the writer concludes that the preservative power of the vaccine virus has considerably diminished within the last forty years. In support of this opinion, he described the appearances of the vaccine vesicle such as he was accustomed to see it twenty years ago, and compares them with the progress of the same vesicle in our own more immediate time. Formerly the local and general symptoms were very well marked and energetic, now they are of an insignificant character; hence the author insists on the necessity of renewing the vaccine matter from its original source.—*Gaz. Med.*

Restraint of Lunatics. Belfast District Asylum.—It has been asserted, of late, by persons of eminence, and, as it is believed, of practical experience, that in no instance need personal restraint be had recourse to, even with the most violent of maniacs; but that a system of "surveillance," carried out by an additional staff of attendants, will answer all the purposes of physical restraint. In two asylums, in particular, viz., the Middlesex County Asylum, at Hanwell, and the Lincoln, this system has been put into operation, and found, it is stated, by the superintendents thereof, viz., Dr. Conolly and Surgeon Hill, to be productive of the best effects. On the other hand, equally high authority is against the total abolition of restraint, so far as its humanity is in question, but not so as to its practicability. Dr. Corsellis, Director of the West York Pauper Asylum, in his Annual Report of this institution for the present year, thus expresses his opinion on the subject: "Many years' careful attention to this subject has led to the conviction, that a mild and judicious restraint can never be supplied by any 'surveillance.'" In the last Report of the Dundee Royal Asylum for Lunatics—an institution established as well for the wealthy as the poor insane—the following observation on this important matter is to be found: "Even allowing the practicability of mere surveillance, whether it be humane and desirable, is a question that appears very problematical." Such are the opinions of the heads of two establishments many years in operation, as to the inutility of the total abolition of restraint—opinions in which the Manager of this Asylum fully agrees.—*Abstract from Dr. Stewart's Report.*

The expenditure for the year ending April 1, 1840, in the Belfast District Asylum for Lunatic Poor, has been £3719; making the average annual cost of each patient £16 13s. 4d., every charge of management included.—*London Lancet.*

Castration successfully performed by a Patient.—Thomas Aldridge, aged 35 years, formerly servant to a military surgeon, applied to me to remove an enlarged and painful testicle, which had given him much annoyance for several years. Not considering the disease to be one of a malignant character, I did not feel justified in complying with his request. Several weeks afterwards a summons was sent to my house for my attendance upon a man who was "bleeding to death." Not being at home a medical friend attended for me, and found the patient to be the above-

mentioned individual, in a state of syncope from loss of blood. It appeared that he had made a longitudinal incision with a razor through the scrotum over the diseased testicle, had then pulled it out, and cut through the spermatic cord. My friend after some difficulty, arising from the retraction of the cord, secured the artery, the wound went on well, and in three weeks healed. The patient was much delighted with having got rid of his troublesome enemy, and also with his own surgical skill.—*Ibid.*

Puncture for Chronic Hydrocephalus.—In the April No. of the "Edinburgh Journal," are recorded the histories of two cases of chronic hydrocephalus, treated by puncture. The subject of the first case was two months old; the head measured 20 inches round, and 12 inches from ear to ear. On the 10th of March, 1839, a puncture was made, with a trochar, on the right side of the head, and 15 ounces of clear fluid were drawn off; the child turned pale and vomited. The head was now bandaged up. On the 23d, 11 ounces of fluid were evacuated; on the 26th, 16 ounces. The child was again visited on the 21st of August, and then appeared to be in good health, although the head had increased in volume to 27 inches by 17. Since then the medical attendant lost sight of the case.

In the second case, the child, eight months old, had been attacked 10 weeks after birth; the head measured 22 inches round, and 14 from ear to ear. On the 12th of April, 1838, 20 ounces of fluid were drawn off by puncture, and the head strongly bandaged; on the 29th, 23 ounces; on the 12th of May, 22 ounces; on the 19th, 19 ounces. These repeated punctures and extraction of fluid were attended with very little benefit. On the 29th, the head being again measured, it was found that only half an inch had been gained. Mercury was administered, but the child sunk on the 2d of June. On examining the brain after death, 90 ounces of serum were discovered in the cranial cavity.—*Archiv. Gen. de Med.*

Medical Miscellany.—New Orleans continues to enjoy almost uninterrupted health.—Cases of plague at Alexandria, in Egypt, are becoming rare, and all fear of the disease seems to have subsided.—The medical schools of the British provinces have not announced a course of lectures the present season, it is presumed—since no circulars have been received, as in past times.—Dr. Brown's Orthopedic Institution, in this city, is appreciated by an intelligent community.—Will not some correspondent in Arkansas favor the Journal with the nature of the disease which so much alarms the people there?—A copy of Mrs. Gove's pamphlet on solitary vice not having been sent to this office, no opinion can be formed of its merits.—Homœopathic physicians are multiplying in New England. It is regarded as a passport to immediate practice to advertise oneself, now-a-days, a new-light physician.—Mr. Geo. Combe, the phrenologist, is now residing at Gorgie Cottage, Slatford, near Edinburgh. In May next he will visit Germany, accompanied by his lady.—Mr. Robert Cox will recommence editing the Edinburgh Phrenological Journal next month, the present editor having decided to leave the chair. Exchange periodicals designed for that work, or papers and parcels sent to Mr. Combe, should be directed to the care of Messrs. Simpkin, Marshall & Co., London.—Smallpox has almost depopulated the city of Panama—vaccination not being practised there by the native inhabitants.—Dr. R. B. Banister is acting surgeon of

the U. S. Ship *Levant*, which sailed on the 28th, from Newport, R. I.—Lectures commenced at the Medical Institution of Yale College on Thursday last, with good prospects.—We regret to hear of the prevalence of sickness extensively through the country parishes of Louisiana. Many persons who left New Orleans for the sake of their health, have suffered seriously by a change of location. In Mississippi and Alabama, also, we understand the ravages of disease were quite alarming.

Number of deaths in Boston for the week ending Oct. 3, 51.—Males, 22—females, 22. Stillborn, 2. Of consumption, 5—infantile, 6—dysentery, 2—cholera infantum, 4—delirium tremens, 1—convulsions 2—typhoid fever, 6—croup, 1—worm fever, 1—rubeola, 1—dys, 1—hooping cough, 2—bowel complaint, 2—brain fever, 1—lung fever, 2—child-bed, 1—dropsy on the brain, 1—cholera morbus, 1—dropsy, 1—teething, 2—inflammation of the bowels, 1—tumor, 1—suicide, 1—old age, 2.

COLUMBIAN COLLEGE, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The Lectures in the Medical Department of this institution will commence on the first Monday in November, annually, and continue until the 1st of March.

During this period, full courses will be delivered on the various branches of medicine by

THOMAS SWALE, M.D., Professor of Pathology, and the Practice of Medicine.

FREDERICK HALL, M.D., Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy.

HARVEY LINSLEY, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics, and the Diseases of Women and Children.

THOMAS MILLER, M.D., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.

JOHN M. THOMAS, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics.

J. FREDERICK MAY, M.D., Professor of Surgery; late Professor of Surgery in the University of Maryland.

SAMUEL C. SMOOT, M.D., Demonstrator of Anatomy.

The Medical College is situated at the corner of 10th and E streets, equi-distant from the Capitol and the President's house.

In the arrangement of this building, and the organization of the school, particular reference has been had to the study of *Practical Anatomy*, a branch which the student will enjoy peculiar facilities for cultivating.

The Professor of Surgery will show all the operations upon the recent subject, and afford the student an opportunity of repeating the more important ones with his own hand.

The Professor of Chemistry has a complete chemical and philosophical apparatus.

The Professor of Obstetrics will illustrate his lectures by obstetrical apparatus, and an ample collection of preparations and drawings.

As there are many young men of talent and worth in different parts of our country who, from restricted circumstances, are unable to avail themselves of the benefits of public lectures, the Professors have resolved to admit, gratuitously, two such students from each of the States, and one from each of the Territories. In order, however, to guard against individuals whose education and character do not qualify them to become useful members of the profession, the selection is placed in the hands of the Senators and Delegates of Congress, each of whom has the right to select one student from his respective State or Territory, and whose certificate of selection will be a passport to all the lectures, by paying only, on entering the school, the usual matriculating fee of five dollars.

The entire expense, for a Course of Lectures by all the Professors, is \$70. Dissecting Ticket, \$10; optional with the student.

The requisites for graduation are, that the candidate shall have attended the lectures of each professor two full courses, or one full course in this school, and one in some other respectable institution. He shall have entered his name with the Dean of the Faculty as a candidate for graduation, and delivered to him an inaugural dissertation on some medical subject, thirty days before the close of the session, and pass a satisfactory examination.

All persons who have attended two full courses of lectures in this school, are entitled to attend succeeding courses free of expense.

The degrees are conferred by the authority of the Columbian College, incorporated by an act of Congress of the United States.

Good board can be procured at from three to four dollars per week.

J. M. THOMAS, M.D.

City of Washington, June 2, 1846.

Dean of the Faculty.

ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE.

Lectures will commence on Tuesday, Nov. 2d, 1846, and continue sixteen weeks.

Surgery, by

Theory and Practice of Medicine, by

Materia Medica and Natural History, by

Anatomy, by

Chemistry and Pharmacy, by

Obstetrics, by

Institutes of Medicine, by

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A 19

REGISTER OF THE WEATHER.

Expt. at the State Lunatic Hospital, Worcester, Ms. Lat. 42° 15' 49". Elevation 483 ft.

1890.	THERM.			BAROMETER.			Wind.	Weather.	Remarks.
	h	m	s	h	m	s			
Sept.							2, P.M.	2, P.M.	
1 Tues.	55	76	76	29.50	29.50	29.50	NW	Fair	
2 Wed.	55	75	60	29.50	29.50	29.50	SW	Cloudy	Slight showers.
3 Thur.	55	60	62	29.57	29.56	29.49	NW	Fair	Beautiful sunset.
4 Frid.	57	60	67	29.51	29.57	29.57	N	Fair	do. do.
5 Sat.	59	60	54	29.55	29.49	29.49	NE	Bale	Cold storm.
6 Sun.	59	64	64	29.49	29.49	29.47	NW	Fair	
7 Mon.	56	74	70	29.55	29.55	29.55	SW	Fair	
8 Tues.	54	74	65	29.55	29.55	29.49	SW	Fair	
9 Wed.	58	78	75	29.49	29.49	29.54	S	Fair	
10 Thur.	56	65	65	29.57	29.55	29.55	W	Bale	
11 Frid.	56	64	69	29.55	29.55	29.55	NW	Fair	Fine shower at 5 o'clock.
12 Sat.	56	59	54	29.49	29.50	29.50	NW	Fair	Bale in the night.
13 Sun.	44	59	56	29.55	29.49	29.49	NW	Fair	
14 Mon.	47	65	59	29.64	29.59	29.51	NW	Fair	
15 Tues.	50	68	65	29.49	29.49	29.49	NW	Fair	
16 Wed.	49	70	70	29.55	29.55	29.55	S	Fair	
17 Thur.	49	74	68	29.55	29.55	29.49	S	Fair	Fog in the low grounds in the morning.
18 Frid.	48	71	66	29.49	29.57	29.55	SE	Bale	
19 Sat.	48	65	59	29.50	29.15	29.15	SW	Fair	Rainy night and morning.
20 Sun.	50	67	61	29.50	29.54	29.51	S	Fair	High wind.
21 Mon.	49	53	47	29.50	29.18	29.59	NW	Fair	
22 Tues.	37	54	50	29.53	29.60	29.61	NW	Fair	Frost in low grounds.
23 Wed.	44	63	59	29.60	29.56	29.56	SW	Fair	Smoky.
24 Thur.	50	63	53	29.73	29.59	29.51	NW	Fair	do. Pleasant weather.
25 Frid.	59	64	59	29.50	29.76	29.74	S	Fair	Foggy morning. White frost.
26 Sat.	45	67	43	29.70	29.63	29.60	SW	Fair.	do. do.
27 Sun.	59	69	65	29.59	29.59	29.54	S	Fair.	High wind. Fine rain in the evening.
28 Mon.	45	59	53	29.44	29.50	29.53	NW	Fair	
29 Tues.	45	67	63	29.49	29.58	29.54	NW	Cloudy	
30 Wed.	47	67	63	29.53	29.51	29.50	S	Fair	Rain in the evening.

The month has been very pleasant, the weather uniformly mild, with a large proportion of fair days. This month, as well as the whole season, has been very favorable, and the early and late crops are generally good. Range of the thermometer, 37 to 76; Barometer, from 29.51 to 29.69.

MEDICAL TUITION FOR 1890-91.

THE subscribers will commence their course of instruction for the ensuing medical year, on November 1st, 1890 (the period at which the Lectures at the Medical College of Harvard University begin). Examinations will be held on all the branches of medicine and surgery during the lectures, in order that students intending to offer themselves for examination at the College in the spring, may be prepared. Students may be assured that they will have constant and abundant opportunities for the cultivation of practical anatomy at all seasons of the year. After the lectures, the arrangements will be as follows until the ensuing November.

Free access at all hours to the United States Marine Hospital at Chelsea will be granted; a daily morning visit will be made by Dr. Stedman, and every week Drs. Ferry, Bowditch and Wiley will visit in the afternoon, for the purpose, chiefly, of learning the physical signs of diseases of the chest. Dr. Bowditch will deliver a course of lectures on diseases of the chest and air passages. Admission to the medical and surgical practice at the Massachusetts General Hospital, the Infirmary for Diseases of the Lungs, and to the practice of one of the Dispensary Districts; occasional opportunities for operative surgery and midwifery.

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MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

A STATE MEETING of the Councilors of the Society will be held at their rooms, rear of the Athenaeum, Pearl Street, on Wednesday, the 7th day of October next, at 11, A. M.

GEO. W. OTIS, Jr., Sec. Soc'y.

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Dr. H. M. Mearns